

JS-6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL

Case No. **EDCV 23-0419 JGB (SPx)**

Date December 19, 2023

Title ***Deborah S. Oakley v. United States of America, et al.***Present: The Honorable **JESUS G. BERNAL, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE****MAYNOR GALVEZ**

Deputy Clerk

Not Reported

Court Reporter

Attorney(s) Present for Plaintiff(s):

None Present

Attorney(s) Present for Defendant(s):

None Present

**Proceedings: Order (1) DISMISSING Plaintiff's Complaint for Failure to Prosecute;
and (2) DIRECTING the Clerk to Close the Case (IN CHAMBERS)**

On March 6, 2023, Plaintiff Deborah S. Oakley ("Plaintiff") filed a complaint against Defendants United States of America, Internal Revenue Service, and Deputy Assistant Attorney General ("Defendants"). ("Complaint," Dkt. No. 1.) On December 6, 2023, the Court ordered Plaintiff to show cause in writing by December 15, 2023 why the action should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution. ("OSC," Dkt. No. 15.) As the Court noted in its OSC, proof of service had not been properly filed against Defendant United States of America within the required time period. (See *id.*) As of December 19, 2023, Plaintiff has not properly filed proof of service, responded to the Court's OSC, or continued to prosecute the case.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) grants the Court authority to *sua sponte* dismiss actions for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with court orders. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); *Wolff v. California*, 318 F.R.D. 627, 630 (C.D. Cal. 2016). Plaintiffs must prosecute their cases with "reasonable diligence" to avoid dismissal pursuant to Rule 41(b). *Anderson v. Air W., Inc.*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). Plaintiff has failed to respond to the Court's OSC by the deadline imposed by the Court. The Court finds that Plaintiff has failed to prosecute this case with reasonable diligence and that dismissal is therefore appropriate.

Before dismissing an action for either failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court order, or failure to follow the local rules, a court must weigh several factors: (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of

prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases of their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995) (failure to follow local rules); Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002) (failure to prosecute or to comply with a court order). The Court need not weigh these factors explicitly. See Ghazali, 46 F.3d at 53–54.

The Court finds that dismissal is appropriate. Both the Court and the public benefit from the expeditious resolution of this action because further delay will impede judicial efficiency. See Pagtalunan, 291 F.3d at 642 (“fail[ing] to pursue the case for almost four months” favors dismissal). Additional delay will also prejudice Defendants, forcing them to spend needless resources on contesting this matter; in fact, Plaintiff has already unreasonably delayed this action without explanation. See Sw. Marine Inc. v. Danzig, 217 F.3d 1128, 1138 (9th Cir. 2000) (“Unreasonable delay is the foundation upon which a court may presume prejudice.”). Moreover, less drastic sanctions are not realistic: Plaintiff has yet to properly enter proof of service since the filing of the Complaint and is unlikely to do so in the future.

Accordingly, the Court DISMISSES Plaintiff’s action for failure to prosecute and DIRECTS the Clerk to close the case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.